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CLASS OF 1863

OF

HARVARD COLLEGE

MEMOIRS

APRIL, 1915, TO APRIL, 1916

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CAMBRIDGE

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HARVARD COLLEGE. CLASS OF 1863.

ROSCOE PALMER OWEN, son of William and Sarah (Webb) Owen, was born in Bath, Maine, March 29, 1842. He died in Boston, April 5, 1915.

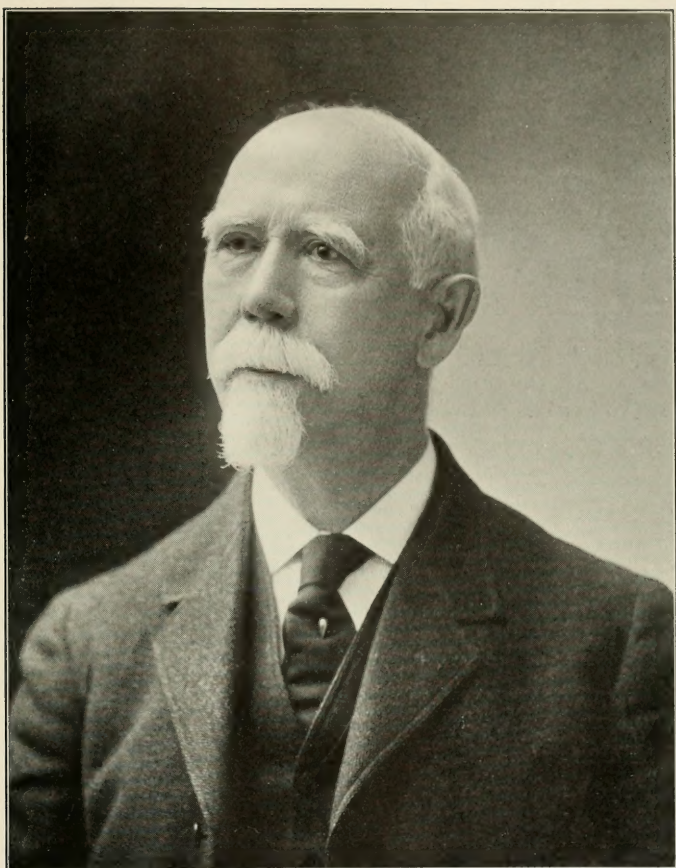
Owen was one of those men whose good service to humanity has been greater than the notice which it has attracted from others. He had a strong character, both bodily and mentally. He had fixed opinions, to which he adhered with tenacity, though they were tempered by his fairness of mind and his keen and abiding sense of justice. Whatever work came to him to do was done faithfully, with no sparing of effort, and with perseverance that would not relax until the task was finished. But beyond the pleasure which success in worthy endeavor must bring to all men, he showed, he apparently felt, no exultation, certainly no pride, in any of his achievements. He was no boaster; he wished to come up always to the constantly rising level which had become and was ever becoming the desired goal of his attainment. If at any time he fell short of this, it was not for lack of effort on his part, and the temporary failure was merely an incentive to new exertion that should bring final success. He inspired those around him with something of his own spirit. During an unbroken acquaintance with him of more than sixty years I have felt its influence upon myself. It came, not from the spoken word, but from the unconscious impression of his character. His strong nature made him a steadfast friend; if it sometimes led him to persist in misjudgment of those who differed from him or to whom his feelings were antagonistic, this shows of itself the strength and firmness of the traits to which I have alluded.

From his father, William Owen, he inherited the granite-like qualities of his character. His early education was in the common schools. He was graduated from the Bath High School and was admitted to Bowdoin College in the summer of 1858. After

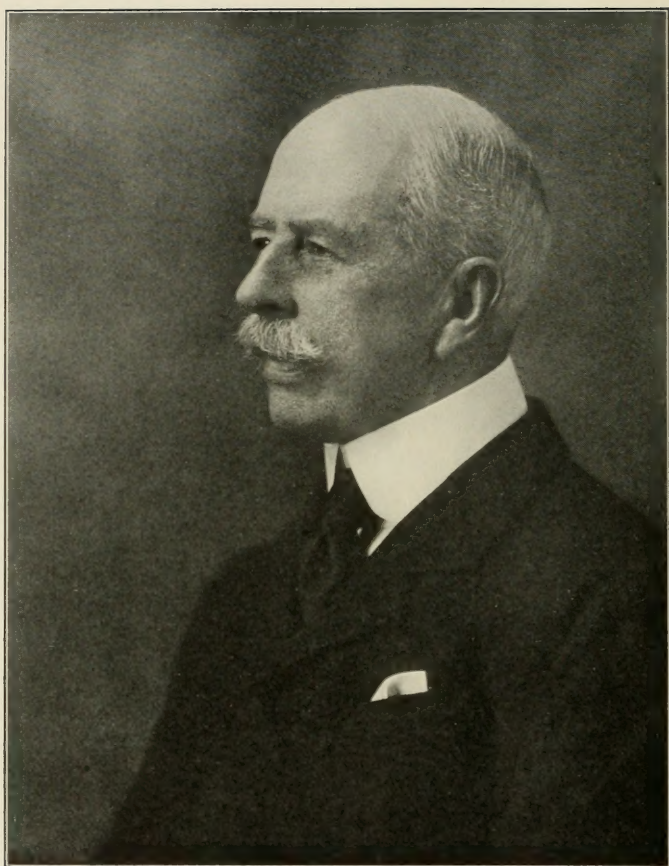
another year's study, chiefly under private tuition, he became a member of our Class in 1859, and was graduated with us in 1863. He then for a short time taught a school in New Hampshire, and for more than two years was a tutor in the family of General Butler. He began to study law in 1866, in the office of Judge J. G. Abbott in Boston. He was admitted to the bar in 1869 and practised law for some years in Boston with classmates Bailey and Nichols. He had good success in general practice, but made a specialty of conveyancing, and finally gave to this his whole attention. In July, 1881, he became city conveyancer in the law department of the city of Boston, and so remained until his death. He was married on September 25, 1909, to Julia A. (Batchelder) Nichols, the widow of our classmate Nichols.

The bare recital of such facts as these gives but little idea of the high qualities which those who really knew him found in our dead classmate. *Nec male vixit qui natus moriensque fefellit.* His work attracted but little attention; most of it was done in quiet record offices or in the seclusion of his own desk. But it was work of the highest importance to the city, and so to all of its citizens and taxpayers. Any little slackening of vigilance, any slight carelessness on his part, might have involved serious and far-reaching consequences. Many of the more showy results reached in the courts by other members of the law department could not have been obtained without the foundations laid by his painstaking industry. His probity was of course beyond dispute, but his sound judgment, his unremitting watchfulness, his thorough rightmindedness, were rarer, though not higher, qualities. It was all these traits that made his services of so much worth to the city.

During his college life the same qualities were shown in him. He had high rank as a scholar by reason of them. He was best loved by those to whom he was best known. I have spoken of his sober, steadying, and yet inspiring influence. He was methodical and painstaking, but he could be and sometimes was roused to a red-hot pitch of enthusiasm or indignation which would be lasting. Yet his general disposition was undisturbed by passion. One of our classmates, more intimate with him than



Yours very truly
Roseoe & Owen



Always Your old friend
& comrade
Edward D. Port

some of us, has pithily but correctly described him in a letter from which I quote. "I had always thought of him as one of those whose life had been so placid and serene that with his excellent constitution he would probably be one of the last survivors. . . . He was neither an aristocrat nor yet a plebeian; a good scholar; sincere, but not demonstrative; genial and true."

It is upon men like Owen, who do faithfully their work, whatever it may be, and are content therewith, more than upon those who, like the great captains, "confuse us with their guns and drums," that the progress of the world in sound thinking and right living depends. He has acted well his part. It is fit that we who knew him should cherish his memory, and while we grieve for his loss, should yet rejoice that he has been with us for so long.

H. N. SHELDON.

EDWARD DARLEY BOIT, son of Edward Darley (Harvard, 1834) and Jane Parkinson (Hubbard) Boit, was born in Boston, May 16, 1840. He died in Rome, Italy, April 22, 1915.

Boit fitted for college at the Boston Public Latin School and at the private school of Mr. Epes S. Dixwell, as did others of his contemporaries, and graduated with his Class in 1863, being among the older members of the Class. He rowed on his Freshman crew a winning race against Yale on Lake Quinsigamond. Among the clubs to which he belonged in college were the D.K.E. and A.D.; he was Secretary and President of the Institute and Secretary and Poet of the Hasty Pudding Club. As Class Poet he discharged the duties of that position in a manner reflecting an unusual degree of credit both upon the Class and upon himself. He received from Harvard the degrees of A.B., A.M., and LL.B.

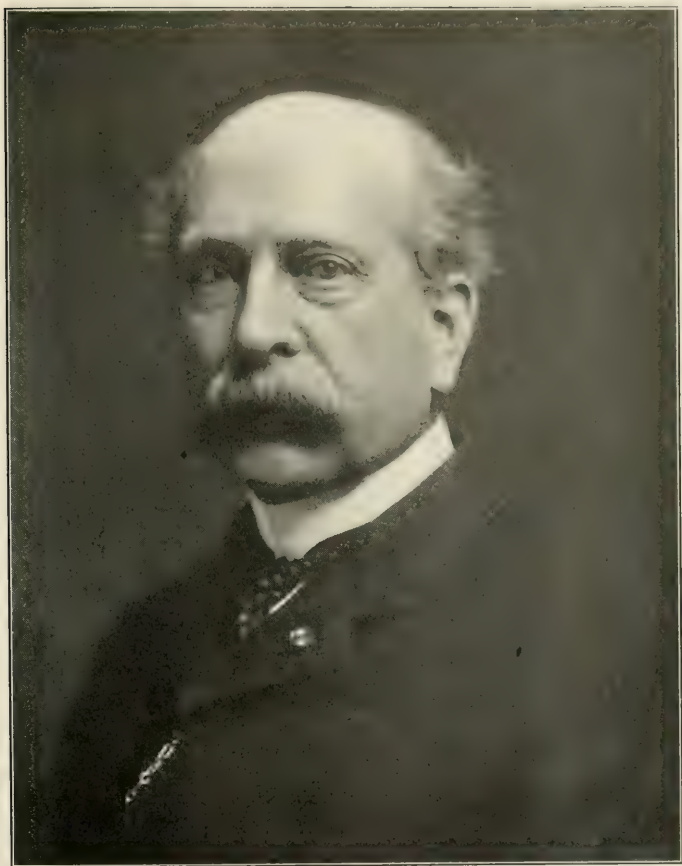
After graduating from the college he began the study of the law at the Harvard Law School in September, 1863, continuing his studies there and in the office of George S. Hillard in Boston until March, 1866, when he was admitted to the bar.

In April, 1866, he went to Europe for a year, and on his return in March, 1867, he opened an office in Boston, but never really practised law.

He was married at Christ Church, Cambridge, by Bishop Eastburn, June 16, 1864, to Mary Louisa Cushing, daughter of the late John P. Cushing of Belmont, Massachusetts. By this marriage there were six children: Edward Darley, born May 13, 1865, who died April 7, 1888; John Cushing, born October 1, 1866, who died March 16, 1867; Florence Dumaresq, born May 6, 1868; Jane Hubbard, born January 17, 1870; Mary Louisa, born June 6, 1874; and Julia Overing, born November 15, 1877.

From the time of his marriage until 1871, with the exception of his first visit to Europe in 1866, he lived in Newport, Rhode Island, where he built a house at the Spouting Horn, and in Boston. In 1871 Boit went with his family to Europe, where, with the exception of occasional visits — longer or shorter — to the United States, he made his home for the rest of his life. He devoted himself to painting, studying drawing with Crowninshield in Rome, and subsequently oil painting with Couture and especially with Français in Paris. As a draughtsman he was more than ordinarily skilful, and ultimately he achieved marked distinction as a water colorist. He exhibited frequently in the Paris Salon, beginning with 1876, and in the Exposition Universelle of 1878. In 1880 there was an exhibition of his water colors and oil paintings in Boston, and several similar exhibitions were held there later.

He was an intimate friend of John S. Sargent, with whom he twice held joint exhibitions of water colors in Boston and New York. At the first of these exhibitions Mr. Sargent's entire set was bought by the Brooklyn Art Museum. At the second exhibition the greater part of both Boit's and Sargent's sets of water colors were bought by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, where they now are. Both of these exhibitions were largely attended, and much interest was shown in them. Monsieur Guiffrey, at that time serving on loan from the directors of the Paris Louvre as curator of pictures at the Museum — a thoroughly competent judge — was a strong advocate of the acquisition of Boit's pictures. In addition to these conjoint exhibitions there had previously arisen from this friendship between the two artists a portrait by Sargent of Mrs. Boit, one by him of Boit himself, and a



Yours truly
Edmund S. Wheeler

very eminent picture, now in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, of their four daughters when children.

The first Mrs. Boit died at Dinard, France, in 1894. In 1897 Boit married again, his second wife being Florence Little, daughter of Captain McCarty Little, U.S.N., of Newport, Rhode Island. She died in Paris in 1902, leaving two sons: Julian McCarty and Edward Boit.

During the later years of his life Boit passed his summers with his family and frequent friends in the mountains near Vallombrosa, about twenty miles from Florence. Here he had bought considerable land and a villa, Cernitoio, formerly a monastery of some antiquity, but transformed to suit in sufficient measure modern domestic requirements. Here he and his family received their friends, sharing with them the attractions of their home and the beauties of its surroundings; here he exercised the functions and duties of the Italian padrone in connection with the peasants on his estate and with his neighbors; here he painted some of his most charming water colors. It was a happy period of his life.

Boit's appearance and manners were distinguished; his address and conversation were attractive and interesting.

A requotation of the lines from his Class Poem which precede the report published on the twenty-fifth anniversary of graduation is permissible here:

“Long years ago, united heart and hand,
They issued from these walls, a youthful band,
With manly courage and with honest hearts.
On life's wide stage they played their various parts:
All strove alike, with powers some more, some less;
And all deserved, while some achieved, success.”

G. B. SHATTUCK.

EDMUND SOUDER WHEELER, son of James Putnam and Maria Hepsibah (Storer) Wheeler, was born in Eastport, Maine, September 8, 1842. He died in Buffalo, New York, July 6, 1915.

Wheeler fitted for college at the Roxbury Latin School, his father having moved his family to Roxbury in 1854.

On his mother's side Wheeler was connected with Commodore Preble, Governor Langdon of New Hampshire, an ancestor of our classmate Langdon, and with the poet Longfellow. Wheeler's mother was the daughter of John Langdon Storer and Ruth Preble.

Wheeler was appointed acting assistant paymaster in the navy, September 24, 1863, and was ordered to Southwest Pass, Mississippi River. July 8, 1864, he was ordered to report for duty on board the United States steamer "Tennessee," then flagship for Admiral Farragut. He was, however, soon placed in charge of the paymaster's department of the monitors "Winnebago" and "Chickasaw." They joined the fleet off Mobile Bay and, the monitors taking position on the right of the line, passed Forts Morgan and Gaines, being close to the "Tecumseh" when she was blown up by a torpedo. The "Chickasaw" was mainly instrumental in capturing the ram "Tennessee." During this engagement and for some months after Wheeler added the duties of line officer to those of paymaster, being placed in charge of the Third Division. The monitor was afterwards engaged in blockading the approaches to Mobile, was the first to anchor off the wharves of Mobile, and was one of the vessels selected to receive the surrender of the enemy's fleet, on the river above, May 15, 1865. Wheeler was detailed as judge advocate of a naval general court-martial and acted in that capacity from May 24 to July 2, 1865, when the vessel was ordered to New Orleans and soon put out of commission. Wheeler resigned November 30, 1865.

He engaged in a general merchandise brokerage and commission business in New York City for a while, and for two years, ending May 1, 1869, he did an insurance business in Detroit, Michigan, and was associated with our classmate Francis Marsh. In October, 1871, he was connected with a gas company in Buffalo and undertook the developing of some bituminous coal interests in Pennsylvania. He removed to Buffalo and became a member of the firm of Wheeler & Davis, proprietors of the Stirling Chain Works. These works took their name from the Stirling Forge in Orange County, New York, which was named for its first proprietor,

Lord Stirling, from whom it passed directly to the great-grandfather both of Mrs. Wheeler and of Wheeler's partner Davis, and became the property of Peter Townsend of New York City, a direct descendant. During the Revolution the works were managed by Mrs. Hannah Townsend, the great-grandmother of Mrs. Wheeler, and under her supervision was made the immense chain stretched across the Hudson River at Constitution Island, to prevent the passage of the British vessels. The firm of Wheeler & Davis was dissolved by limitation in December, 1885.

In April, 1889, Wheeler was assistant to the general manager of the Nicaragua Canal Construction Company in New York City and for the next year or more spent part of his time in New York and part at Niagara Falls. In 1891 and 1892 he travelled extensively abroad, but in August, 1892, he was called home to take the position of superintendent of the Niagara Junction Railway Company and agent of the Niagara Developing Company, which positions he held until his resignation and retirement from business December 31, 1905.

In college Wheeler was chum for six months, the last half of the Freshman year, with Moses B. Sewall, Jr., of Charlestown, who died in September, 1860, the first death on our roll. From the beginning of the Sophomore year until the middle of the Junior year he chummed with Haswell Cordis Clarke, who left college at that time to enter the army.

Wheeler always kept up an active interest in the college and in his classmates and was faithful in keeping our Secretaries posted as to his doings. However, it was not until our fortieth anniversary that it could be said he was ever seen at any of our meetings. From that time he made it a point to come as often as he could, and we got in the way of expecting him annually, and he rarely disappointed us. He was a member of the Buffalo Harvard Club, the oldest resident graduate, and he took great pleasure in attending the meetings of the Associated Harvard Clubs, at Cleveland (1910), at St. Paul and Minneapolis (1911), and at New York (1912).

In a notice of his life in the *Buffalo Commercial* one who knew

him well and was himself a graduate of Harvard of nearly our own time says: "He had convictions and opinions of his own which gave him a distinct individuality, but he also had deep and loyal affections for many men and women who loved him and will keenly mourn his untimely taking-off."

He was married October 24, 1866, at Niagara Falls, to Jane Howell Townsend, daughter of Daniel Jackson Townsend. His wife died in Atlantic City, New Jersey, November 11, 1897. Two sons and two married daughters survive him.

C. H. DENNY.

JOHN WILLIAM FREEMAN, son of Jonathan and Sarah Ann (March) Freeman, was born in Glens Falls, New York, October 7, 1842. He died at Canandaigua, New York, September 28, 1915.

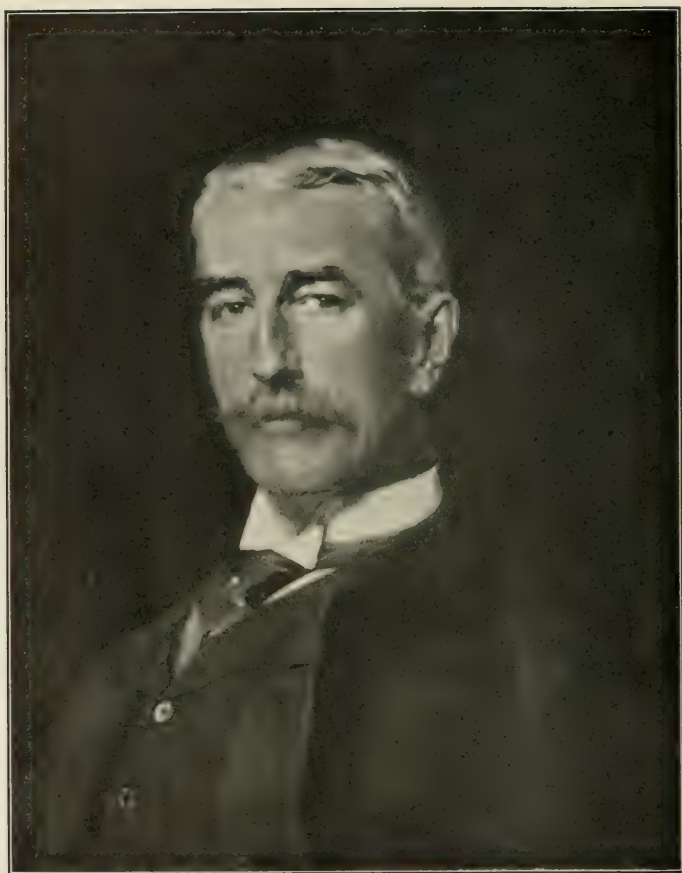
At the age of six years Freeman was moved with the rest of the family to Troy, New York. He fitted for college under the private instruction of Rev. Edgar Buckingham (Harvard, 1831). After graduation he studied medicine with Dr. James R. Wood in New York City and was graduated at Bellevue Hospital Medical College in March, 1866. He was a favorite pupil of Dr. Wood and gave promise of ability and usefulness in his profession. However, October, 6, 1866, he was taken to Hartford for treatment for injury to his brain, the result of a blow on his head, but gradually grew worse and was soon hopelessly insane.

He was afterwards removed to Canandaigua, New York, and in a hospital there he remained for a little over forty-two years. He had been losing strength for several months, and four days before his death developed broncho-pneumonia, which was the chief cause of his death.

The likeness of Freeman which accompanies this brief notice is from the photograph taken at the time of our graduation, and the autograph of course dates back to that period. It is hard to realize that with the exception of the first three years after we left college life had been to him a sealed book, and yet he lived and moved and had his being until a few short months ago.



John W. Freeman



Yours truly
Edw. J. New

EDWARD STURGIS GREW, son of Henry and Elizabeth Parkman (Sturgis) Grew, was born in Boston, March 10, 1842. He died at West Manchester, Massachusetts, January 20, 1916.

Grew prepared for college at Mr. Epes L. Dixwell's school. After graduation he began his career in the dry-goods commission business with Frothingham & Co., Boston. On July 15, 1867, he became agent in Boston for A. T. Stewart & Co. of New York City. January 1, 1872, he began business for himself as a member of the dry-goods commission house of Gowing & Grew, Boston and New York, and January 1, 1884, became a partner in the firm of Lawrence & Co., of which Amos A. Lawrence was the senior member. January 1, 1887, he retired from this firm, after twenty-three years of active business life.

He had been a director in the Massachusetts National Bank of Boston, treasurer for many years of the Benevolent Fraternity of Churches, and had served the Boston Dispensary as a member of the board of managers and as secretary.

He was married at St. Paul's Church, Dedham, on November 26, 1867, to Annie Crawford Clark, daughter of Joseph W. Clark of Dedham. After living in Longwood for two years they made their home in Boston and spent their summers at West Manchester. His wife, three sons, and a daughter survive him.

The accompanying halftone is after a painting by Gaugengigl.

HENDERSON JOSIAH EDWARDS, son of Albert and Susan Hill (Dunnell) Edwards, was born in Industry, Maine, April 13, 1840. He died in Boston, January 20, 1916, on the same day on which our classmate Grew died.

Edwards fitted for college at the Boston Public Latin School. He joined the Fifth Maine Volunteer Regiment as acting adjutant, the regiment being then under the command of his uncle, M. H. Dunnell, in June, 1861, and served with them for three months, going through the first battle of Bull Run. He wrote an interesting account of his experiences in this battle which appeared in the "Harvard Magazine" in April and May, 1862. He took his degree with his Class in 1863 and soon after received an appointment

as second lieutenant in the Seventy-fifth United States Colored Troops, joining his regiment at Port Hudson, Louisiana. He was promoted to first lieutenant December 20, 1863, and to captain April 16, 1864, commanding the color company. He was in General Banks's Red River campaign and on his return to New Orleans was taken with fever, induced by exposure, and after seven weeks of hospital life received an honorable discharge on the surgeon's certificate May 26, 1864, and returned North. From September following till January, 1865, he had charge of the high school at Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts, reading law in his leisure moments. He then entered the law office of Henry W. Paine of Boston as a student, and in the following March that of Joseph Nickerson. On January 1, 1866, he was admitted to the bar. He was trial justice for Middlesex County for several years, at that time residing in Watertown. He was elected to the school board of Watertown and afterwards was secretary and chairman of the same. He represented his district (Watertown and Belmont) in the legislature of 1873. He was the author of several pamphlets and reports on common school education, and also on drawing and music in the public schools of Massachusetts. In 1876 he left Watertown and lived in Brookline for a while, and afterwards in Boston, practising law and active until the end. In fact he was taken ill on the way to his office and, being removed to his home, 19 Allston Street, Boston, died almost immediately after reaching there.

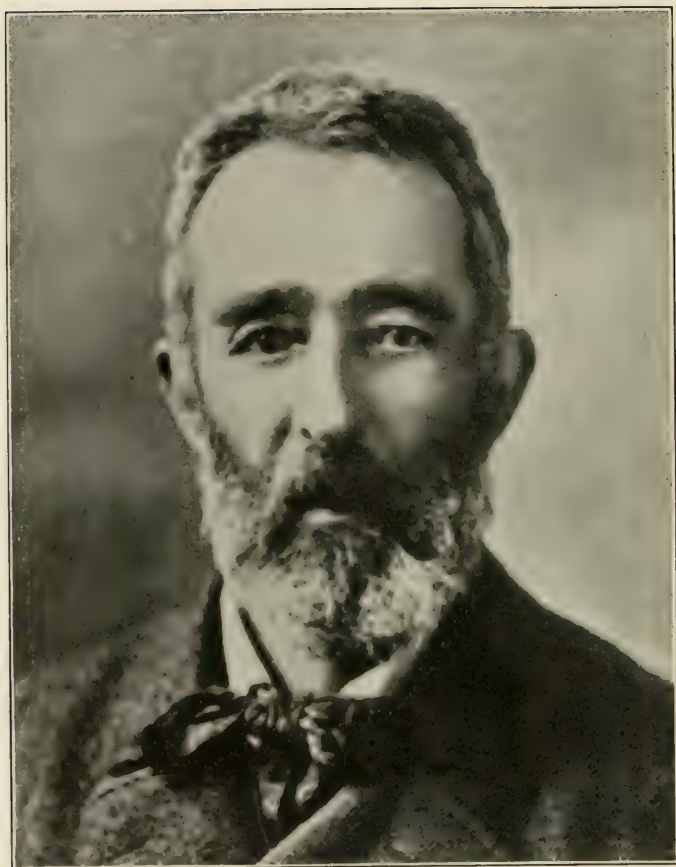
He was married November 29, 1866, to Elizabeth Eaton Henley, daughter of Francis O. Henley of Portland, Maine. His wife died July 2, 1902. They had no children.

CHARLES EMERSON, son of William and Susan (Haven) Emerson, was born in Staten Island, New York, December 15, 1841. He died April 1, 1916, at Southold, New York.

Emerson's father, William Emerson, was a lawyer of New York City, son of Rev. William Emerson of Boston, who was son of Rev. William Emerson of Concord, Massachusetts (who, being a chaplain in the army, died of camp fever at Ticonderoga during



Yours very truly
W. J. Edwards



Sincerely yours
Emerson

the Revolutionary War). Rev. William Emerson of Concord was son of Rev. Joseph Emerson of Malden, who was son of Edward Emerson, merchant of Newburyport, who was son of Rev. Joseph Emerson of Mendon (who married a daughter of Rev. Edward Bulkley of Concord, Massachusetts). Emerson's mother, Susan Haven, was daughter of John Haven, merchant of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, son of Rev. Samuel Haven of the same town.

Emerson spent one year at Columbia College and then studied with a private tutor, James J. Lowell (Harvard, 1858), for six weeks before entering the Class of 1863. He was "rusticated" in November, 1860, one of the seven men whose suspension caused the famous "semi-rebellion" in our Class.

Emerson returned to the Class, March 1, 1862, but left about May 20, 1862, at the beginning of the May recess, and joined the Seventh Regiment, New York State Militia, at Baltimore, Maryland, as a private, and had three months' service on garrison duty. He was appointed second lieutenant in the One Hundred and Seventy-fourth New York Volunteer Infantry, October 22, 1862, and after the consolidation of this regiment with the One Hundred and Sixty-second New York Volunteers he was respectively first lieutenant July 2, 1864, and captain February 10, 1865, and saw service in Louisiana and in Virginia. He resigned May 21, 1865.

"One month idle at Concord, Mass.," he writes in condensed style in the Class Book, "Living with parents. Five weeks carrying chain and hatchet on re-survey Troy and Greenfield R.R.—dollar a day and found. Aug. 5, '65, to July 24, '67, stock broker N. Y. City (Smyth & Emerson). Treasurer during this time of Harvard Club, N. Y. City. Aug. 1, '67, Treasurer Albany and Boston Mining Co. Office Boston. Removed to N. Y. March 6, '68."

After a few months devoted to business he sailed for Europe. He received his degree of A.B. from Harvard in 1867. When he went abroad he seems to have intended to study medicine, but this intention was lost sight of after a little.

He was married September 18, 1871, at the American Consulate, Berne, Switzerland, to Theresia Steiner of Veszprém, Hungary. He bought a small property with vineyard in St. Aubin, Canton Neuchâtel, Switzerland. At a later period he lived in Paris. Returning to this country with his wife, some time before 1883, he lived in Concord, Massachusetts, occupied for the most part with the cultivation of the land and the improvement and sale of real estate there. His wife died December 7, 1910. They had no children.

In the autumn of 1911 he made a journey by wagon from Concord to his last abiding place, Southold, Suffolk County, New York, near the eastern end of Long Island, taking his household goods with him and exciting the curiosity and enthusiasm of all the small boys and most of the rest of the population as the caravan toiled over the hills of Massachusetts and Connecticut.

To many of us it was a great pleasure to be able to greet Emerson in person at our Fiftieth Anniversary dinner. He had come on purpose and was filled with the spirit of the occasion, which had prompted him to write two sets of verses, one of a humorous nature, begging the caterer to "give us plain porridge and a bowl of milk," the other, which he read himself, referring with much feeling to "The tie of Classmate binding us forever."

It shows what a strong bond the old-fashioned Class feeling was, that this man, who had practically not been with us as a classmate since early in the Sophomore year, who had not been present at our annual meeting since graduation, and who was feeling the limitations and disabilities of his years, should have returned for just one more look at his classmates, and that we and he could with real sympathy renew the recollections of the early days.

